

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALGIER 03236 031601Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 031510Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3272

S E C R E T ALGIERS 3236

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN CHARGE'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

REF: ALGIERS 3227

1. MOROCCAN CHARGE ASKED EMBOFF TO MEET HIM NOV. 3 TO DISCUSS SAHARA. CHARGE NOTED SITUATION NOW EXTREMELY GRAVE SINCE MOROCCO AND ALGERIA APPARENTLY ON COLLISION COURSE. CHARGE NOTED ALGERIAN PERMREP RAHAL'S SPEECH IN SECURITY COUNCIL OVER WEEKEND IN WHICH HE SAID THAT ALGERIA WOULD ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT GREEN MARCH COULD HAVE INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES.
2. CHARGE SAID HE HAD COMMUNICATED TO RABAT AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS IN REFTEL AND HAD BEEN ASKED TO FIND OUT IF BOUMEDIENE HAD REQUESTED US SUPPORT FOR ALGERIAN POSITION AND IF PRESIDENT HAD SPECIFICALLY THREATENED WAR IF GREEN MARCH WENT FORWARD. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT BOUMEDIENE, LIKE OTHER ALGERIAN SPOKESMAN, HAD SAID THAT GREAT POWER LIKE US COULD NOT REMAIN NEUTRAL ON SAHARA QUESTION. WITH RESPECT TO WAR, EMBOFF SAID PRESIDENT HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFIC AND HAD MADE NO THREATS BUT HAD IMPLIED THAT CONSEQUENCES OF GREEN MARCH COULD BE EXTREMELY GRAVE FOR REGION.
3. CHARGE ALSO ASKED IF WE KNEW WHY SPANISH HAD CHANGED THEIR POSITION VIS A VIS FUTURE OF COLONY. EMBOFF SAID
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SITUATION IN MADRID WAS NOT TERRIBLY CLEAR TO US AT THIS

POINT. CHARGE SAID THAT MOROCCAN-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS
WERE BROKEN OFF AND THAT NO DATE FOR RESUMPTION
WAS IN SIGHT.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION, CHARGE NOTED THAT
MOROCCAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURE HAKJ M'HAMMED BAHNINI
HAD JUST ARRIVED IN ALGERIA AS SPECIAL ENVOY OF KING HASSAN.

5. COMMENT: MOROCCANS OBVIOUSLY CONSIDER THAT THEIR CAUSE
HAS SUFFERED SETBACK OVER WEEKEND. BAHNINI HAS HIS WORK CUT OUT
FOR HIM.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

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